

THE LAST DAY—PREPARATION FOR IT.

ALVIN BYERS.

John, the Revelator, reveals to my mind when I read Rev. 6, a picture of the solemn and eventful day of the Lord which is set apart in the scriptures as a day of reckoning.

This is a wonderful picture when we come to consider what it is and what it means. When we look back to the time of the creation of man and then follow him down the corridors of time and see the innumerable host of people, who have been born into the world and have lived their portion of life here, and being captured by the pale horse and his rider, have been laid away to rest until the great and notable day of the Lord.

Just think of the millions that will come forth from the grave at the sound of Gabriel's trumpet and march up before the Judgment Bar of God to receive their reward. There you will see all classes of people either waiting their doom of destruction or their reward of peace, joy happiness and everlasting life. There will be no excuses accepted on that day for not being a Christian. Some people in this day and age of the world, when you go to them and ask them about their souls' salvation, will have a whole armful of excuses to give you. Kind friends you need not bring you little armful of excuses up before the Judgment Bar of God for they will not be accepted. So you had better get rid of them and prepare for that great day. You may not get a chance even to offer your excuses but will cry out for the rocks and hills to fall on you and hide you from the face of him that sitteth upon the throne.

God's mercy will have been brought to an end and nothing but his judgment will be dealt out to the people. As death finds you so shall judgment find you, because there is no repentance after death. Therefore we are probationers here in this life to prepare for a better world. Not saying that we should live here without enjoying life and the pleasures of this world so far as they are consistent with the word of God. But that we live a life that is pleasing to God in all its attributes is what is demanded of us in order to stand the test on the great and notable day of the Lord. And we can live this life and still enjoy ourselves, for a Christian should be the happiest person living.

I dislike the idea of a person who is continually finding fault with other people, saying, they are unconverted and at the same time if they would examine themselves, they would find themselves not one straw better than those people whom they censure. So God help us that

we may examine self and prepare to meet the great judge, and if we do this we will have all we are able to do. If we will do this our actions will reprove others and we need not say anything to them as far as that is concerned, and we can still go on to perfection. God is the judge now and will be on that great day, when all people will be judged. According to the way people are living to-day the parting scene will be sorrowful.

When God separates his people from the unrighteous, I fear there will be quite a number of families divided, separated never to see one another again. Christian parents are you training and bringing your children up in the service of God, pointing them to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world; are you teaching them the way that leads from earth to glory.

Christian brothers and sisters are you laboring for the salvation of your fathers and mothers that are out of Christ, if you are God help you, that you may succeed, and if you are not, God help you to begin the work now. And may God help us all to more fully consecrate ourselves to his service, that we instead of being separated on that day, may be ushered in through the gates of the New Jerusalem and be saved. Because if we are divided on account of sin then the separation means salvation to some and destruction to others. There are two rewards that can be given on that great day. The reward of the christian, and the reward of the sinner. The reward of the christian will be heaven and all the blessings that he can enjoy. But the reward of the wicked will be outer darkness, misery and woe.

FEED MY LAMBS.

L. M. P.

Sunday-school teachers are prone to undervalue the importance of their work. If they could but fully take into their hearts the charge of the risen Savior, and really feel the responsibility of the place among God's workers which they occupy what grand results would be seen. It was after our Savior had borne the taunts and hisses of the multitude; after the nails had been driven into his bleeding hands and feet, after the sword had pierced his side, after the agony and shame, of death; after the resurrection. All for you. It was after you were bought with a price that the Savior said to you as he did to the Apostle, "Lovest thou me," and thinking of what he has done for you, can you give any other than Peter's reply, "Lord thou knowest that I love thee." And hearing your risen Savior's reply can you ever again feel that your position as a

Sunday-school teacher is unimportant and trivial? "Feed my lambs." If you love me, feed my lambs. Feed my lambs, not for time, but for eternity. Not a responsible position? I can think of no position more so. To train the lambs of the fold. The hope of the flock. The mothers and fathers that are to mould the character of the generations to come. What watchfulness, what sympathy, what constant study of individual character, what care in preparing the lesson, what tenderness in reproof and advice, what self-examination, what constant prayer, is needed in this feeding of his lambs. How constantly should the spirit of the Good Shepherd be with these leaders of the flock. The time is so short, an hour once a week, for a few years, for the lambs grow away from you very soon. Oh! teachers, rise to this great responsibility put upon you, and do the Master's work every Sunday as though that lesson, and word from you was to be the last heard by those children before being called to give an account. For who knows that it may not be. In a Sunday-school in B several of the scholars in one faithful teacher's class were converted. One sweet girl of nine years old, stood up and gave her first word for Christ. Since she had taken Jesus, she was "just as happy as she could be." Two days after on Tuesday night little Jessie was "safe in the arms" of that Jesus she had so recently learned to love. Can you picture the joy of the teacher who had gained a jewel for her crown? "Lovest thou me?" "Feed my lambs."

STORING THE WORD.

J. F. W.

One of the Lord's saints who was waiting for the summons to her heavenly mansion, was obliged to sit whole nights unable to sleep. "Mother, dear," said one of her daughters, "I can't rest for thinking of you sitting here alone the livelong night. I wish you'd let me sit with you some of the time." "Why, my child, that would only make it harder for me. And then you must not for a moment think of me as lonesome. I'm never alone. I wish I could tell you of the glorious presence that fills the room, and the beautiful things that are said to me. When I was a child we used to commit the scriptures to memory—sometimes whole chapters at once. I didn't see much use in it then, but I wouldn't take the world for it now. I didn't know that I was storing up the Word for such a time as this. I have forgotten the things I learned later, but those texts stand by me. Wherever you go I hope you'll do all you can to get the children and young folks to commit the Bible to memory. It will be worth everything to them some day."